

August 30, 2004

Ms. Pam Bonrud, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

RECEIVED

AUG 31 2004

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Dear Ms. Bonrud:

Enclosed herein are twelve (12) copies of 7th Revised Sheet No. 1 of Section 4 of NorthWestern's Gas Tariff. The revised schedule lists an additional Contract with Deviations pursuant to which the Company proposes to provide natural gas service to Northern Lights Ethanol Plant for its boiler and dryer. The Northern Lights Ethanol Plant is one of NorthWestern's larger gas customers and has been served by NorthWestern since June of 2002.

NorthWestern delivers natural gas to the Ethanol plant through a 2.25 mile pipeline that runs from the Northern Natural Transmission Line to the Ethanol Plant. This is illustrated on the enclosed map. The gas is delivered direct through this line and does not come in contact with the NorthWestern distribution system.

Earlier this month (August) it was discovered that NorthWestern has been charging the distribution fuel rate to this customer since they came on our system. NorthWestern proposes to deviate from the standard rate by not charging fuel to this customer as their 2.25 mile pipeline is not part of our normal distribution system and does not have fuel losses. The rate charged for delivery will not change, only the fuel percent added to the bill will be eliminated. This will not affect the recovery for NorthWestern's other retail customers as there is no fuel loss on this pipeline to the Northern Lights Ethanol Plant.

CONFIDENTIAL

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South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
WEEKLY FILINGS
For the Period of August 26, 2004 through September 1, 2004

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact Delaine Kolbo within five business days of this report. Phone: 605-773-3201

NATURAL GAS

NG04-008 In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Energy for Approval of Tariff Revisions.

Application by NorthWestern Energy to update its fuel retention percentage for natural gas transportation service. NorthWestern Energy's tariff provides that the fuel retention percentage be adjusted annually with the updated percentage to be effective October 1 of each year.

Staff Analyst: David Jacobson
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Filed: 08/31/04
Intervention Deadline: 09/17/04

NG04-009 In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations and Approval of Tariff Revisions.

Application by NorthWestern Energy for approval of a contract with deviations for service to Northern Lights Ethanol Plant by discontinuing to charge for company used and lost and unaccounted for gas. NorthWestern Energy states the gas line serving the plant is a direct line to the plant and does not come in contact with the NorthWestern distribution system. The filing also proposes to remove certain currently listed contracts with deviations because they are no longer in effect.

Staff Analyst: Dave Jacobson
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Filed: 08/31/04
Intervention Deadline: 09/17/04

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TC04-188 In the Matter of the Request of PrairieWave Community Telephone, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

On August 30, 2004, PrairieWave Community Telephone, Inc. (PrairieWave) provided information constituting PrairieWave's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that PrairieWave will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer
Date Filed: 08/30/04
Intervention Deadline: 09/10/04

TC04-189 In the Matter of the Request of Santel Communications Cooperative for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

On August 31, 2004, Santel Communications Cooperative (Santel) provided information constituting Santel's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Santel will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer
Date Filed: 08/31/04
Intervention Deadline: 09/10/04

TC04-190 In the Matter of the Request of Great Plains Communications, Inc. for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

On August 31, 2004, Great Plains Communications, Inc. (Great Plains) provided information constituting Great Plains' plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Great Plains will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best
Staff Attorney: Karen E. Cremer
Date Filed: 08/31/04
Intervention Deadline: 09/10/04

TC04-191 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of Terms and Conditions for Interconnection, Unbundled Network Elements, Ancillary Services and Resale of Telecommunications Services between Qwest Corporation and Qwest Communications Corporation.

On September 1, 2004, the Commission received a filing for approval of Terms and Conditions for Interconnection, Unbundled Network Elements, Ancillary Services, and Resale of Telecommunication Services Agreement between Qwest Corporation (Qwest) and Qwest Communications Corporation (QCC). The parties state that the Agreement "sets forth the terms, conditions and prices under which Qwest will provide services for resale to QCC for the provision of local exchange services." Any party wishing to comment on the Agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the Agreement no later than September 21, 2004. Parties to the Agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Rolayne Ailts Wiest
Date Filed: 09/01/04
Initial Comments Due: 09/21/04

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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER APPROVING
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL)	CONTRACT WITH
OF A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS AND)	DEVIATIONS
APPROVAL OF TARIFF REVISIONS)	NG04-009

On August 31, 2004, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by NorthWestern Energy (NWE) requesting approval of its 7th Revised Sheet No. 1 of Section 4 of NWE's filed Natural Gas Tariff. The revised schedule lists an additional Contract with Deviations pursuant to which NWE proposes to provide natural gas service to Northern Lights Ethanol Plant for its boiler and dryer. NWE requested the contract rates become effective with meter readings on and after October 1, 2004. With this filing NWE is removing Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, Big Stone Cheese and South Dakota Soybean Processors from its contract with deviations tariff sheet.

On September 30, 2004, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for approval of the Contract with Deviations. Commission Staff recommended approval.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.3, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-11. Further, the Commission finds that NWE's request for approval of a Contract with Deviations is just and reasonable and shall be approved for service rendered on and after October 1, 2004. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that as of the date of this Order, the request seeking approval of a Contract with Deviations is in the public interest and is hereby granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that the above-mentioned tariff is approved and is effective for service rendered on and after October 1, 2004.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4th day of October, 2004.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.	
By:	<u> Melaine Kolbo </u>
Date:	<u> 10/5/04 </u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

 Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

 Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

 James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner